

## The Napoleon Series

### Officers of the Anhalt Duchies who Fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1789-1815: Anhalt, Leopold Ludwig, Count

By [Daniel Clarke](#)

Leopold Ludwig Count Anhalt was born on February 28, 1729, in Kleckewitz (Raguhn-Jeßnitz), in the Principality of Anhalt-Dessau. He was the second eldest son of Wilhelm Gustav, Hereditary Prince of Anhalt-Dessau and Johanne Sophie Herre. Therefore he was the brother of Albrecht (1735-1802) and Friedrich (1732-1794), and also half brother to Karl Philipp (1732-1806) and Heinrich Wilhelm (1734-1801). He married Karoline von Printzen in 1763, having one daughter, Wilhelmine Sophie Karoline.

Leopold entered the service of Prussia in December 1745 during the War of Austrian Succession. He had been given the rank of Staff Captain and the position of Adjutant-General to general Leopold I, Prince of Anhalt-Dessau, who was his father's father. On December 15 he was engaged in the Battle of Kesselsdorf, where his uncle defeated an army of Austrians and Saxons. Later, in April 1748, he became a Line Captain and commander of a company in the 3rd Infantry Regiment, Leopold Maximilian von Anhalt-Dessau. Then, during the early stages of the Seven Years' Wars, he fought with his regiment at the Battle of Lobositz (Lovosice) in October 1756 and Prague in May 1757, where he was wounded three times.

The severity of his wounds meant that Leopold only returned to active service in October 1759, but in the meantime he had been promoted to Major in February 1758. For Leopold, though, his first assignment when he returned turned out to be very unlucky. He was assigned to the command of Generalmajor Christian Friedrich von Diericke, who commanded a corps posted near the town of Meissen on the right bank of the River Elbe. The Austrians cut this corps off from the main Prussian army on December 3, 1759, and in the battle that followed von Diericke managed to gather enough men to defend a bridgehead, which allowed the bulk of his corps to escape over the river in boats to the left bank. In the end he and about 1,500 men were captured, one of which was the unlucky Leopold. In the end it was not until after the war had ended in 1763 that Leopold was released from captivity.

Returning to service, Leopold was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on May 28, 1765, and later to Colonel on August 10, 1767. With this latter rank he took command of his 3rd Infantry Regiment, Franz Adolf von Anhalt-Bernburg-Schaumburg-Hoym, in December 1769. A few years later he received the Pour le Merite in 1774 and became Chef of the 43rd Infantry Regiment, von Schwerin, in January 1776. Promoted to the rank of

Generalmajor on January 12, 1777, Leopold commanded an infantry brigade during the Bavarian War of Succession, 1778-1779, where he occupied and garrisoned the town of Braunau (Broumov). Nearly a decade later he was promoted to Generalleutnant on May 23, 1787, becoming Inspector-General of Infantry in Lower Silesia, and was awarded the Order of the Black Eagle that August.

During the French Revolutionary Wars Leopold was awarded the Order of the Red Eagle on June 12, 1792, and latterly became a General der Infanterie on January 4, 1794. In November of that year he sat on the military committee that examined the poor conduct of Generalmajor Philipp Adolph von Schwerin (1738-1815) during the war in Poland. Not long afterward Leopold died in the town of Liegnitz (Legnica) on April 28, 1795.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> König, Anton Balthasar, *Biographisches Lexikon aller Helden und Militärpersonen*, Band I, Berlin, Arnold Wever, 1788, page 49; Frobel, Guido von, [No article title found], *Militar-Wochenblatt*, Nr. 23, Berlin, Ernst Siegfried Mittler und Son, 1838, page 109; Pauli, Carl Friedrich, *Leben Großer Helden des Gegenwärtigen Krieges*, Volume 7, Halle, Christoph Peter Franken, 1761, page 132; Witzleben, Cäsar Dietrich von, "Anhalt", *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie*, Band I, Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot, 1875, page 463; Ersch, Johann Samuel, *Allgemeine Encyclopädie der Wissenschaften und Künste*, Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus, 1819, page 134; Straubel, Rolf, "Er Mochte nur Wissen, das die Armee mir gehoret", *Friedrich II und seine Offiziere*, Berlin, BWV - Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, 2012, pages 16, 104, 160, 321, 368, 413, 425-426, 428-429, 529, 622-623; [No author found] "Die Fürsten aus dem Hause Anhalt in Brandenburgisch-Preußisch Kriegsdiensten", *Zeitschrift für Kunst, Wissenschaft und Geschichte des Krieges*, Band 10 (Volume X), Berlin, Posen und Bromberg, 1827, page 126-127; Montag, Reinhard, "Leopold Ludwig Graf von Anhalt", *Lexikon der Deutschen Generale: Die Generale der Königl. Preussischen Armee*, <http://www.lexikon-deutschegenerale.de/biografien/preussen>, accessed 09/4/2017